

## **Appendix D**

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*Environmental Restoration Project Outreach Plan  
Material Disposal Area H Corrective Measures Study*



## **APPENDIX D ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT OUTREACH PLAN FOR MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA H CORRECTIVE MEASURES STUDY**

The Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) Environmental Restoration (ER) Project is involved in a national effort initiated by the US Department of Energy (DOE) to clean up facilities that were historically involved in weapons production. The goal of the ER Project is to ensure that DOE's past operations do not threaten human health, safety, or the environment in and around Los Alamos County, New Mexico. To achieve that goal, the ER Project is currently investigating potentially contaminated sites.

In January 2000, a Material Disposal Area (MDA) High Performing Team was formed; it consists of representatives from DOE, the Laboratory, and the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau. The team has been tasked with implementing the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective action process by developing and carrying out a decision process to investigate and perform corrective actions for each of the 10 mesa-top MDAs.

MDA H was selected as the first mesa-top corrective action site because of the volume and nature of the material disposed of there. The MDA is a 0.3-acre site located at Technical Area 54 and was used for the disposal of classified, solid-form waste between 1960 and 1986. The waste was placed in nine vertical disposal shafts. Shafts 1 through 8 are covered with crushed tuff and concrete; shaft 9 is covered only by a thicker layer of concrete. When a decision process has been identified and approved, MDA H could serve as the pilot for selecting potential corrective actions at the nine remaining mesa-top MDAs.

The MDA High Performing Team has developed this outreach plan to facilitate communications with the public. The public includes all individuals, organizations, or public agencies potentially affected by the corrective measures study (CMS). This plan proposes processes and a schedule for delivering information to and receiving information from the public on the MDA H CMS. The plan is a work in progress; some of the processes and the schedule may change. The objectives of the plan are to

- provide the public with objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, remediation alternatives, and solutions;
- provide interpretations of data;
- ensure that public concerns are consistently understood and considered in the decision-making process;
- provide the surrounding communities with public access to ER Project technical staff; and
- increase contact with the public in ways that encourage interaction and involve them in the CMS.

The ER Project is accountable to

- anyone who resides in the communities surrounding the Laboratory or has an interest in the activities of the ER Project corrective action process,
- organizations representing or protecting specific groups or interests in our region, and
- government agencies including local, state, federal, and tribal governments.

Surrounding communities potentially affected by the CMS include Los Alamos County, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Santa Fe, and Espanola.

## Proposed Schedule

| Public Involvement Tool  | Purpose   | Date   |
|--|---|--|
| 5½ x 8½ mailer to Laboratory's mailing list (1200 people) composed of individuals, organizations, and government and tribal officials in northern New Mexico       | Introduce the ER Project, the MDA High Performing Team, the corrective action process, and the CMS  | March 12, 2001   |
|  |   |  |
| Two information sheets available online and modified into a mailer and distributed to mailing list   | Highlight the history and current activities at MDA H and highlight the RCRA corrective action process  | March 15, 2001   |
|  |   |  |
| Briefings for the Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board, the League of Woman Voters in Santa Fe, and other organizations as a focal point for citizen input | Short informal discussions that inform, engage, and solicit feedback from the following key players: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOE Headquarters/San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, Jemez, Cochiti</li> <li>• Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board (and future monthly meetings)</li> <li>• San Ildefonso Pueblo</li> <li>• League of Women Voters</li> <li>• Other community organizations (TBD*)</li> </ul>   | February 8, 2001<br>February 12, 2001<br>March 1, 2001<br>March 7, 2001<br>TBD |
|  |   |  |
| Newspaper display advertisements informing the public about MDA H activities   | Newspaper display advertisements will be placed in the local newspapers (Journal North, New Mexican, Rio Grande Sun, and the Los Alamos Monitor)  | TBD  |
|  |   |  |
| Open house hosted at the Los Alamos Area Office  | Invite the public through a mailer to attend an overview of MDA H CMS; include a poster session, documents, interact with staff most of 1½-hour open house  | April __, 2001   |
|  |   |  |
| Two workshops: first workshop planned internally, second workshop engage services of a professional company  | Consult key individuals through focus groups to obtain feedback on proposed corrective measures<br>Host workshops for key individuals or organizations interested in the entire process. Individuals will be identified by way of a mailing list solicitation through mailers and online. Key individuals may include pueblos, community leaders, government officials, and community organizations such as the Northern New Mexico Citizen's Advisory Board, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, and Los Alamos Study Group | June __, 2001<br>TBD   |

**Proposed Schedule (cont.)**

| <b>Public Involvement Tool</b>   | <b>Purpose</b>   | <b>Date</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| Focus groups (conducting research on companies that provide this service)                                    | Consult key individuals through focus groups to obtain feedback on proposed corrective measures  | TBD  |
| Web Site at<br><a href="http://erproject.lanl.gov">http://erproject.lanl.gov</a>                             | <p>All documents (once finalized) on the MDA H CMS will be posted to the ER Project's Virtual Library and available at the Laboratory's Public Reading Room. The format of the virtual library is under reconstruction and is scheduled for completion on March 15, 2001. MDA H documents will include the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMS plan (listing the alternatives to be evaluated and the evaluation criteria)</li> <li>• RCRA facility investigation report (describes the nature and extent of contamination and the present-day risk at MDA H)</li> <li>• Draft CMS report (evaluate a range of alternatives for remediation of MDA H and recommend a selected remedy)</li> <li>• Public comment period for the CMS report scheduled to begin on or before August 1, 2002</li> </ul> | <p>TBD</p> <p>April 2001</p> <p>April 2001</p> <p>June 2002</p> <p>August 2002</p> |
| Public comment<br>(A summary of public comments and responses will be maintained and made available online.) | Comments will be solicited through all the mechanisms listed above. MDA H staff and the ER Project Communications and Outreach point of contact will begin identifying major community concerns. This information will be prepared in a question and answer format, updated monthly, and placed on the ER Project Virtual Library.   | Ongoing  |

TBD = to be determined.

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